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CENTRAL FAX CENTER Serial No. 10/038,528

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CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A message processing system for transmitting and receiving messages between a host computer system application and a distributed computer system application, the message processing system comprising:

a distributed message transmission application associated with the distributed computer system application operative to process a message generated by the distributed computer system application, and to transmit the message to the host computer system application over the communication network;

a host system message transmission application associated with a host application and operative to process a message received from the distributed message transmission application; and

a distributed computer program interface functionally connected to the distributed computer system application and to the distributed message transmission application; and

a profile manager functionally connected to the distributed computer program interface and operative to configure the message for transmission over a communication network by associating a transmission profile comprising message processing information with the message.

2. (Currently Amended) The message processing system of Claim 1, ~~wherein the configuration of the message for transmission over the communication network comprises associating a transmission profile with the message further comprising one or more communication network devices functionally connected to the distributed message transmission application.~~

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3. (Currently Amended) The message processing system of Claim 2, ~~further comprising a distributed computer program interface that is operative to associate the message with a transmission profile stored in a profile database wherein the~~ association of a transmission profile with the message comprises:

determining how the message should be processed for transmission; and

associating the message with one of the communication network devices.

4. (Currently Amended) The message processing system of Claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the ~~distributed computer program interface comprises a~~ profile manager is operative to examine at least one characteristic of the message to determine the transmission profile to be associated with the message.

5. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the message characteristic is an application identifier.

6. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the message characteristic is a serial number.

7. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the message characteristic is a record sequence indicator.

8. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the message characteristic is an application data.

9. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the message characteristic is a command character.

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10. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the communication network is a peer-to-peer network.

11. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the communication network is a client-server network.

12. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the communication network is a wide area client-server network.

13. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the message is a request reply message.

14. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the message is a send-and-forget message.

15. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 4, wherein the message is a broadcast message.

16. (Original) The message processing system of Claim 15, wherein the broadcast message is generated by a publishing service application and wherein the broadcast message is received by a subscribing network element.

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17. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a data message between a first application running on a first network element and a second application running on a second network element of a communication network, the method comprising the steps of:

generating the message in the first network element;

configuring the message for transmission over the communication network;

transmitting the message over the communication network;

configuring the message for delivery to the second network element; and

delivering the message to the second network element;

wherein the step of configuring the message for transmission over the communication network comprises translating the message into a format associated with the communication network; and

wherein the step of configuring the message for delivery to the second network element comprises translating the message into a format associated with the second application; and

wherein the step of configuring the message for transmission over the communication network comprises associating a transmission profile comprising message processing information with the message.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17 ~~18~~, wherein the step of configuring the message for transmission over the communication network comprises accessing a profile database to associate the transmission profile with the message.

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20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of configuring the message for transmission over the communication network comprises associating the transmission profile with the message, based on at least one message characteristic.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the message characteristic is an application identifier.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the message characteristic is a serial number.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the message characteristic is a record sequence indicator.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the message characteristic is a application data.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the message characteristic is a command character.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17 ~~18~~, wherein the transmission profile comprises a transport identifier operative to associate the message with a transport to be used to transmit the message over the communication network.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17 ~~18~~, wherein the transmission profile comprises a service identifier operative to associate the message with a message format to be used to transmit the message over the communication network.